



State Library of Massachusetts - Special Collections Department

Souvenir 74

Printing Plate Collection

Guide

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator: State Library of Massachusetts

Call Number: Souvenir 74

Extent: 1 box (19 printing plates)

Preferred Citation Style: *Item #*. Printing Plate Collection. State Library of Massachusetts Special Collections.

About This Finding Aid: Description based on DACS.

Processed by: Finding aid prepared by Araceli Mendez, 2013. Updated by Wesley Fiorentino, March 2014.

Abstract: The collection is composed of 19 metal printing plates of varying sizes.

SCOPE AND CONTENT- BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL

NOTE

This collection contains nineteen printing plates with no known direct relation to each other. The first printing plate titled "Dinner of Charles Dickens at Papanti's Hall" is a copy of the dinner menu provided to guests who attended a dinner in honor of Charles Dickens' first visit to Boston, Massachusetts in 1842. The menu is dated February 1, 1842 and notes the location of the dinner as Papanti's Hall. (Papanti's Hall was located in Tremont Street near Beacon Street in Scollay Square, known presently as Government Center.) The dinner was hosted by the "Young Men of Boston;" among them were the Hon. Josiah Quincy, Jr., Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, Messrs.

George S. Hillard, Edward G. Loring, and J. Thomas Stevenson. While the dinner was hosted by the young men of Boston, their seniors were invited to share in the feast. Among them were President Josiah Quincy of Harvard University, Governor John Davis, Washington Allston, Mayor Jonathan Chapman, George Bancroft, Richard H. Dana, Sr., and Dr. Jacob Bigelow. The dinner menu showcases a 10-course meal that included Soups, Fish, Relevés, Pieces Froides, Entrees, Hors D' Oeuvres, Roast, Entremets de Legumes, Entremets Au Sucre, and Dessert. At the bottom of the plate are the words "Original loaned by Mrs. E. R. Cogswell".

The second printing plate, "Portrait of Charles Dickens", is a replica of a photograph of Charles Dickens taken by Benjamin Gurney, and is a part of series of photographs taken by Benjamin Gurney in 1867 in New York in honor of Charles Dickens' second visit to the United States. The only known artist to have created a printing plate replica of Gurney's portrait is James Charles Armytage, an English engraver of the 19th century. The National Portrait Gallery in London, England holds a printing plate by James Charles Armytage similar to the one in this collection. It is not clear whether James Charles Armytage is the creator of this printing plate or whether the replica was made by someone else.

The third printing plate, "Butler," is an illustration of a male butler. The fourth printing plate, "Prison," is an illustration of two cloaked men behind a gate. The fifth printing plate, "Woman and Man Leaning on Chair," is an illustration of a man leaning on a chair and table looking at a woman standing near a doorway. The sixth printing plate, "Victorian House," is an illustration of a house or row of houses. The seventh printing plate, "Young Man and Woman," is an illustration of a young man holding flowers and a book. He is escorting a woman and they seem to be walking away from a house in the background. The eighth printing plate, "Three Women," showcases three women sitting around a table in a big living room. The third woman, located in the center, is not very visible. To the left of the women is a fireplace and throughout the room are dresses hanging from various locations. The ninth printing plate, "Girl Reading," showcases a small girl curled up on a couch against a big pillow. She is facing towards the couch and is reading a book. The tenth printing plate, "Man at Desk," showcases a man sitting at a desk writing in a large room. The illustration of a mirror on the left hand side reflects the rest of the room. Outside windows it is raining.

The eleventh printing plate, "Men with Umbrellas," illustrate a man sitting outdoors besides a table, holding an umbrella over his head. Another man is leaning against the table. Smaller illustrations in the background depict other people holding umbrellas. The twelfth plate, "Men at table," depicts four men around a table lit by candles. The thirteenth printing plate, "Profile of man," shows the illustration of a full body profile of a bearded man. The fourteenth printing plate,

“Young woman in Garden,” is an illustration of a woman in a garden peering into the window of a house.

Printing plate number fifteen shows an American Red Cross building. The words “American Red Cross Central Information” are written atop the doorway of the building. There seems to be two sections to the building. The first is most visible and is flying the American Red Cross flag from a pole atop the roof. The second portion of the building is in the background and is flying the United States flag from its rooftop. While there is no date on this plate, it must date after the official establishment of the American Red Cross in 1881.

The sixteenth printing plate, “Victorian Building,” shows a large Victorian style residence. The seventeenth printing plate, “Woman Sitting,” is a simple illustration of a woman sitting on a chair. The eighteenth printing plate, “Train Station,” shows a large crowd of people standing at a train station platform as a train is arriving.

The last printing plate, number 19, is a larger version of the plate “Dinner of Charles Dickens at Papanti’s Hall.” Unlike printing plate number one, this plate does not have the words “Original loaned by Mrs. E. R. Cogswell” at the bottom of the plate. It is possible that printing plate one is based off of printing plate nineteen.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research during the Special Collections Department’s regular hours.

Detailed Series Description and Container List

Item #	Title – All titles provided by cataloger	Date	Size
1	Dinner for Charles Dickens at Papanti’s Hall, February 1, 1842	Undated	17.5 cm by 6.25 cm
2	Portrait of Charles Dickens	Undated	10 cm by 6.75 cm
3	Butler	Undated	4.5 cm by 2.5 cm

4	Prison	Undated	8 cm by 6.5 cm
5	Woman and man leaning on chair	Undated	8.75 cm by 6.5 cm
6	Victorian house	Undated	3.25 cm by 4.5 cm
7	Young man and woman	Undated	4.6 cm by 4.25 cm
8	Three women	Undated	8.5 cm by 8 cm
9	Girl Reading	Undated	8.6 cm by 8.75 cm
10	Man at desk	Undated	8.5 cm by 9.75 cm
11	Men with umbrellas	Undated	5.5 cm by 4.5 cm
12	Men at table	Undated	3 cm by 5 cm
13	Profile of man	Undated	5.25 cm by 4.5 cm
14	Young woman in garden	Undated	9 cm by 7.1 cm
15	American Red Cross building	Undated	13.2 cm by 19.5 cm
16	Victorian building	Undated	12.5 cm by 20.5 cm
17	Woman sitting	Undated	8.4 cm by 6.2 cm
18	Train station	Undated	20.3 cm by 11.7 cm

19	"Original" Plate of Dinner for Charles Dickens at Papanti's Hall, February 1, 1842	Undated	30 cm by 11 cm
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